



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## 2 Tim 2:14-26 – Four ways a disciple responds to conflict

### GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

How do you typically handle conflict or controversy? (ex. Avoid, run away, engage it head on, be diplomatic etc...) What conflict or controversy have you recently engaged with? On a scale of 1-10 how did it go?

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

In what way does 2 Tim 2:14-26 challenge and/or encourage you to handle conflict and controversy differently?

Dave highlighted 4 ways a follower of Jesus ought to respond to conflict, disagreements and controversy...

1. Avoid what's dumb v. 14 (think on what is important and essential)

(Non-negotiable/most important, ie the apostles creed, to important, but not essential, to personal preference or opinion)

In what way would this clarify what is worth "fighting" for and what is useless?

2. Work hard to know and live the truth (vv. 15-19)

3. Clean up your own house (vv 20-21)

4. Pursue maturity and leave behind immaturity (vv 23-26)

Of these four, how can you work on handling controversy and disagreements in your life?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [2 Timothy 2:14-26]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What results from quarreling about words? (2:14)

How did Paul encourage Timothy to present himself before God? (2:15)

Why should we avoid godless chatter? (2:16)

What had Hymenaeus and Philetus done? (2:17-18)

What must a follower of Jesus put their trust/hope in? (2:19)

What sort of articles are found in a large house? (2:20)

How could someone become an instrument used for honorable purposes? (2:21)

What was Timothy encouraged to flee? (2:22)

What was Timothy encouraged to pursue? (2:22)

What produces quarrels? (2:23)

What must the Lord's servant do and avoid? (2:24)

How should we deal with those who oppose the Lord's servants? Why? (2:25)

What did Paul hope would happen to those who opposed the Lord's servant? (2:25-26)

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What useless arguments can we get in with other Christians? Why?

What tempts you to engage in useless chatter and empty, stupid arguments? Why?

How can we both share our opinions about things we care about, yet not engage in senseless controversies?

What can you do to separate yourself from engaging in this and focusing on the BIG picture—Christ alone?

Of someone you know well, what has destroyed their faith more? False doctrines (THE ESSENTIALS) or chattering, useless arguing over non-essentials?

What would it mean to you to present yourself to God as one approved?

In what way is our trust in God and His truth revealed by how we engage in disagreements and controversy?

How can we pursue maturity and flee immaturity?

## APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

How can we pray for each other?